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TCS-10383-61-KH  
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3 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U. S.  
Air Force

ATTENTION : AFCEH-1B2

REFERENCES : AFCEH-1B2 letter dated September 19, 1961, Subject:  
Questions on 9023 (TH 3715-61-KH)

1. One of the questions posed by ACIC in reference had to do with film quality of Mission 9023. Since it was principally of concern to DFD/DDP and logically was earmarked for [ ] Eastman Kodak, the portions of reference were extracted for DFD action.

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2. This date, I received the following response from Mr. El Green:

"The document implied that specifications existed which called for:

Base plus fog	.05 plus or minus .02
minimum density	.13 plus or minus .005
maximum density	1.50 plus or minus .20
density range	1.20 plus or minus 0.1

It is readily apparent by addition and subtraction that such figures are not compatible with each other. I will attempt to give you an analogy which can be understood by a layman.

This is comparable to bringing in to a 4 hour laundry and dry cleaning establishment a group of suits among which are a size 48 stout navy blue wool suit, a size 40 extra long pin striped linen suit and a size 44 regular brown silk suit and saying I want these back right away and they must all be size 42 medium with identical tweed patterns and be made of dacron.

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TOP SECRET

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Of course no such specifications have ever existed. For years our standing (and only) instructions have been to make the dupe positives mirror images of the original negatives and make the dupe negatives identical to the original (yes, unto the fifth and sixth generations).

Now let's look at the quoted figures. Base plus fog of .05 is ridiculously low and for some films base density alone is higher. To a great extent base plus fog is a function of how much processing speed is attempted. We very often say that full useful speed has been achieved when base plus fog reaches the vicinity of .18 to .20. This being the case, it is evident that a min of 0.13 is below fog. Maximum density is going to be a function of terrain or scene luminescence and with the high gamma films used for aerial photography I am afraid many instances of density greater than 1.5 will occur.

It might be theoretically possible by suitable printing and processing techniques to individually tailor a reproduction of each frame to achieve specified d mins and d maxs within tolerances. The results wouldn't be intelligence photography but they might be suitable for photogrammetric measuring machines. A reasonable average time to accomplish this would be about 20 minutes per frame. Since there are 300 (plus or minus) frames per mission about 1000 hours would elapse before we could deliver one copy. New and fairly elaborate equipment would be needed and probably four or five men. If ACIC can stand the time and if you will pay for the equipment and the manpower we are more than willing to attempt to satisfy the requirement.

Some other statements were made in the communication referred to that I did not copy but can remember the substance of. One concerned fogged negatives. This is true. As you know there are apparently small light leaks in the cameras and each time it stops there is partial fogging of one or more frames. This is evident on nearly every mission.

There were cuts within frames. True again. We did this to salvage as much as possible of the damaged original. Parts were water stained. Also true. Don't these people know what happened?

Unjustified reports such as the reference, when sent thru channels, can leave erroneous impressions in many locations and perhaps do irreparable damage to both teamwork and reputations."

Operations Officer

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